

AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES NEWSLETTER

САЙХАН ШИНЭЛЭЭРЭЙ!



The Consular Section congratulates you on the Lunar New Year and wishes you and your families health, happiness and prosperity!



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Updated Embassy Contact Information

There are many ways to get in touch with us if you need our assistance or if you are looking for information. Please review the Embassy webpage, <http://mongolia.usembassy.gov/index.html>, visit us on Facebook or email us with your questions.

For American citizen services inquiries, please email us at UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov.

For non-immigrant visa inquiries, please email us at UlaanbaatarNIV@state.gov.

For immigrant visa inquiries, please email us at UlaanbaatarIV@state.gov.

U.S. Embassy, Ulaanbaatar has a new main phone number, 976-7007-6001. The old number has been de-activated. We have also updated our phone message which may provide the answer to your question. You may even recognize the voices!

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)

Sign up for our free [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (formerly known as “Travel Registration” or “Registration with Embassies”) to receive the latest travel updates and information! You only need to sign up once, and then you can add and delete trips from your account based on your current travel plans. **STEPMobile** now makes registering easier than ever! Using your smart-phone or tablet, go to <http://step.state.gov> to create a new STEP account, register a trip abroad, or update your STEP profile. Register today!

SECURITY NOTICE

Local police issued a warning on January 16th for all Ulaanbaatar drivers to ensure their vehicle doors are locked while driving. Police have noticed an uptick in robberies in which thieves open rear passenger doors when cars are stopped at stoplights and grab belongings from the back seat.

Two such crimes occurred on Monday, January 14, at the Sukhbaatar Square/Central Post Office intersection and near the Uguuj Factory on

Seoul Street, approximately 200 meters west of California Restaurant. At the first location, a thief stole MNT 200,000 in cash and a purse from the back seat of a Nissan Murano. At the second location, the perpetrators were local males, between the ages of 21-23 years, who stole a camera and cell phone from the back seat of a Mitsubishi SUV Pajero.

This type of crime was more common in the past and would occur at any time, day or night. The technique criminals used then was to work in pairs where one distracted the driver by asking for directions while the other stole items from the back seat. Vehicles that are most vulnerable are ones that are stopped in traffic or at red lights. The Embassy's Regional Security Officer will carefully monitor to determine whether the recent cases are isolated incidents or if this snatch and grab technique is on the rise again.

Please be cautious of your surroundings while driving and at stop lights and make sure you lock your doors after entering your vehicle. Keep valuables out of plain sight, as most crimes that occur in Ulaanbaatar are crimes of opportunity.

A few reminders to avoid becoming a victim of crime:

- Do not carry your wallet or cellular phone in your coat pockets;
- Do not carry or display large amounts of cash;
- Be careful of beggars who may be attempting to distract you;
- Crime is a 24-hour concern but darkness and late night travel increase your chances of being a victim;
- Maintain positive control of your purse or bags in restaurants, bars, taxi cabs. Wearing a backpack with zippers is not a secure way to carry items when you are walking in UB, particularly in areas where pick pockets are known to frequent, i.e. the State Department store;
- Make sure you lock vehicle doors to prevent thefts at stop lights or when stuck in traffic.

Courtesy Regional Security Officer

QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

"I want to work/live/visit Mongolia. How can I get a Mongolian visa? Can the Embassy help me get the visa?"

Please be aware that the U.S. Embassy has no authority over matters related to your admission into, stay in or immigration status while in Mongolia. You should contact Mongolian authorities directly for assistance with Mongolian visas. Information about the visa requirements can be found on the Mongolian Embassy's website, http://www.mongolianembassy.us/consular_and_visa/visa_info_for_us_citizen_only.php. If you are in Mongolia, you may contact the Mongolian Immigration Agency in Ulaanbaatar by dialing 1882. Additional details in English can be found on their website: <http://immigration.gov.mn/index.php>.



Tax Information

Income tax season is fast approaching. We recommend that you obtain your tax forms online at <http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/index.html>.

Please note that all U.S. citizens or resident aliens must report and pay federal tax on their worldwide income, even if they live abroad. For your convenience, attached is an electronic copy of the [Publication 4732](#) and it is also available on the internet at <http://www.irs.gov>

The Internal Revenue Service would like to remind U.S. taxpayers that they may need to file Form 8938 (Statement of Specified Foreign Financial Assets). It is important for taxpayers to determine whether they are

subject to this new requirement because the law imposes significant penalties for failing to comply. More information is available on the IRS tax site, specifically at <http://www.irs.gov/Businesses/Corporations/Do-I-need-to-file-Form-8938-%E2%80%9CStatement-of-Specified-Foreign-Financial-Assets%E2%80%9D%3F>.

For more information on U.S. taxes, please consult the list of websites and telephone numbers below to help find the forms and answers you need.

STATE TAX RETURNS: For individual state income tax information, visit <http://www.taxadmin.org/>.

Tax guidance for U.S. citizens abroad: <http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/international/article/0,,id=97324,00.html>

Tax guidance for persons in the military: <http://www.irs.gov/individuals/military/index.html>

Electronic payment website: <http://www.eftps.gov/>

Refund information: <http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=96596,00.html?portlet=4>

Phone Services:

Individuals	1-800-829-1040
Businesses	1-800-829-4933

For Telephone Assistance for people who live outside the United States, the hours of availability vary by location. Please see the [International Services](#) page.

Please note that calling the above 1-800 U.S. numbers from an overseas location will usually not be toll-free.

Upcoming Holidays

March 8 – International Women’s Day

Embassy Contact Information

American Citizen Services
Embassy of the United States
11th Micro District
Big Ring Road
Ulaanbaatar 13, Mongolia
Tel: 976-7007-6001
Fax: 976-11323-788
After-hours
or emergency number: 9911-4168
E-mail: UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov
- or -
American Embassy Ulaanbaatar
4410 Ulaan Baatar Place
Washington, DC, 20521-4410

Travel Warnings and Alerts

[Worldwide Caution](#) 02/19/2013

[Algeria](#) 02/19/2013

[Egypt](#) 02/06/2013

[Philippines](#) 01/30/2013

[Afghanistan](#) 01/29/2013

[El Salvador](#) 01/23/2013

[Algeria](#) 01/19/2013

[Mali](#) 01/18/2013

[Niger](#) 01/16/2013

[Kenya](#) 01/14/2013

[South Pacific Cyclone Season](#) 01/07/2013

[Libya](#) 01/02/2013

[Haiti](#) 12/28/2012

[Central African Republic](#) 12/28/2012

[Somalia](#) 12/26/2012

For additional information about these travel warnings and alerts, please go to this site: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html